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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 006369

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2029

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: GOT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO JANUARY ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 1707

Classified By: DCM Robert S. Deutsch. Reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) MFA Middle East Deputy Director General Safak Gokturk told PolMilCouns that Iraq's State Minister for Provincial Affairs Wael Abdul Latif and Deputy Foreign Minister Bayati delivered an oral message on operations in Fallujah to Prime Minister Erdogan at 2:00 pm Nov. 10. Speaking shortly after the meeting, Gokturk said the message was "as expected," as the Iraqis explained that the IIG had explored every avenue to find a peaceful way to resolve the situation in Fallujah. Military action was the last resort and was necessary to fulfill the demands of the people of the city for law and order. Gokturk said Erdogan took note of the message, saying that it was Ankara's expectation that all care would be taken to avoid civilian casualties. He also emphasized the importance of holding elections on time in January with the participation of all Iraqis.

2. (C) Iraqi Ambassador Omran told PolMilOff Nov. 10 that the IIG delegation explained to the PM why the IIG decided to go ahead with the Fallujah operation, and also told Erdogan that coalition and Iraqi forces have captured over 200 foreign fighters there, among them Syrians and Moroccans. He added that Erdogan also brought up two routine Turkish/Iraqi bilateral issues: the second border gate and security for Turkish truckers. Omran told us that the IIG delegation agreed that Turkey and Iraq should continue to work together on these issues.

EDELMAN